as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 company-specific information cannot be divulged.

Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen in LIC, Dehradun

†2032. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been discrimination against ex-servicemen in the examination held for the recruitment of Assistants in Life Insurance Corporation Division of Dehradun under Kanpur Zone;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen recruited as Assistants in the said division during the last three years; and

(d) the criterion fixed for reservation for the said post for ex-servicemen during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No recruitment of Assistants has been conducted in Kanpur Zone during last five years.

(d) As per the instructions of Government of India, 14-1/2% posts in Class III cadres are reserved for ex- servicemen, if sufficient number of selected candidates are available.

Haul of Heroin

2033. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether Pak link has been revealed in the biggest haul of heroin in December, 1999; and

(b) if so, the action taken to take up the matter with Pakistan to control drug smuggling in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The packets of heroin, seized, bore Pakistani markings. The arrested persons include 2 Pakistani Nationals.

(b) Drug smuggling is a clandestine activity. To check and prevent drug trafficking, Indian authorities have taken up the matter with Pakistani Anti Narcotics Agencies in the border meeting of BSF and Pak Rangers held on 18th January, 2000. The Government has also apprised international organisations like the SAARC Drug Monitoring Desk, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Interpol of the matter.

Study by Prime Database on stock markets boom

2034. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report captioned "Track Your Money—AN EXPRESS SERIES" which appeared in Indian Express dated 20th January, 2000;

(b) whether a study done by Prime Database has shown that during the stock market boom of the 90s, most of the investments either turned sick or promoters simply vanished into thin air;

(c) whether Government have investigated the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the specific action plan of Government to protect small investors' money in such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator had conducted a study on the post issue existence status of the companies that came out with IPOs from 1992—98. SEBI has so far identified 129 companies as "vanishing' companies. Action against several companies which have defaulted in their commitments made to the public while mobilizing funds, has been taken by the regulatory agencies, namely,